

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04760 271759Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----055587 271802Z /42
R 271325Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506

S E C R E T JIDDA 4760

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, XF
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GID CHIEF, PRINCE TURKI

REF: JIDDA 4456

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH GID CHIEF, PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL, EMBOFF BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND TURKI'S VIEWS ON CURRENT EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT SADAT'S NEW PROPOSALS. TURKI EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE SAUDI ARABIA APPRECIATED THE SADAT INITIATIVE, IT ACCOMPLISHED ALL IT COULD AND SHOULD NOW BE DROPPED. SADAT, THROUGH HIS INITIATIVE, HAD PROVEN THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT SINCERE IN THEIR CLAIM THAT THEY WOULD NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH WITH THE ARAB STATES.

2. PRINCE TURKI ALSO MADE SOME OTHER INTERESTING COMMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE SAUDI UNDERSTANDING DURING THE TAIF DISCUSSIONS HELD LAST SUMMER WAS THAT, IF THE PLO ACCEPTED 242, THEN THE UNITED STATES WOULD AGREE TO RECONVENING GENEVA. TURKI ADDED THAT THE SAUDI EFFORTS WERE MADE AND ARE STILL BEING MADE WITH THE VIEW TO RECONVENING GENEVA.

3. COMMENT: THE SAUDIS HAVE NEVER BEEN COMFOR-
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04760 271759Z

TABLE WITH THE SADAT INITIATIVE, EVEN THOUGH THEY SUPPORTED IT PRIVATELY. THEY HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED AT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AS HAVING BROUGHT ABOUT A SITUATION WHERE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT AN ARAB CONSENSUS. FOR SAUDIS, CONSENSUS IS UPPERMOST AND THEREFORE THEY WANT SADAT TO REPUDIATE THE INITIATIVE SO THAT THEY CAN GET PRESIDENT ASSAD TO JOIN IN A

CONSENSUS OF THE CONFRONTATION STATES. THE SAUDIS
WILL WORK HARD FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA
PRACE CONFERENCE. CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S COMMENTS TO
THE AMBASSADOR (REFTEL) SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING
STEPS SAUDIS WILLING TO TAKE TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE. PART OF SAUDI WISH TO RECONVENE GENEVA IS
THEIR DESIRE TO STAY OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT. WITH
GENEVA RECONVENED, THEY WOULD BE COMFORTABLY IN THE
BACKGROUND WHERE THEY ARE MOST HAPPY, AS FAR AS CON-
SENTIOUS ISSUES ARE CONCERNED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA04760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850033-0134
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780617/aaaaaohk.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d25667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 JIDDA 4456
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2197368
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH GID CHIEF, PRINCE TURKI
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US, (PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d25667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014